

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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P R 291925Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5329

INFO AMEMBASSY QUITO

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QUITO FOR LITTON

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, PE

SUBJECT: CIVAIR - DISPUTE WITH PERU/COMMENTS OF PRIME
MINISTER AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT

REF: STATE 123793

1. ON MAY 29 LIMA PRESS CARRIED STATEMENTS BY RPIME MINISTER MORALES BERMUDEZ AND MINISTER OF TRANSPORT MENESES ARATA VCONCERNING BRANIFF-AEROPERU DISPUTE. PRIME MINISTER IS QUOTED AS SAYING THAT BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 26 "THE INTELLIGENT THING TO DO IS TO NEGOTIATE AN EQUITABLE FORMULA." HE ALSO NOTED THAT SINCE THE CAB HAD REDUCED AEROPERU'S FLIGHTS TO THE U.S., " WHAAT REMINED FOR US TO DO BUT TAKE THE SAME INITIATIVE AND PUT OURSELVES IN A POSITION OF EQUALITY?" HE ADDED THAT THERE IS SUFFICIENT TIME BETWEEN NOW AND JUNE 26 TO HAVE SUCCESSFUL NEGOTIATIONS ON A BASIS EQUALITY AND THAT BOTH AIRLINE COMPANIES WOULD CONTINUE TO FUNCTION NORMALLY DURING THE INTERIM. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESENT SITUATION WILL NOT NECESSARILY LEAD TO UNFORTUNATE CONSEQUENCES AND THAT SINCE THE AIRLINE-TO-AIRLINE NEGOTIATIONS DID NOT SUCCEED, FOLLOWING THE CAB DECISION, IT IS NOW UP TO THE RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATORS

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TO RESOLVE THE PROBLEM.

2. MINISTER OF TRANSPORT GEN. MENESES, USING STRONGER LANGUAGE, IS QUOTED DIRECTLY AS SAYING"...IN THE MATTER OF SOVERIEGNTY OR EQUAL TREATMENT BETWEEN COUNTRIES, ECONOMIC ASPECTS ARE OF SECONDARY IMPORTANCE." MENESES CONTINUED THAT PERU HAS NOT VIOLATED TH AIR BILATERAL AGREEMENT AND THAT WHAT PERU WANTS IS "EQUALITY." WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT THE EFFECT ON TOURISM WHICH THE DISPUTE MIGHT BRING ABOUT, MENESES SAID THAT TOURISM WOULD NOT BE AFFECTED BECAUSE THERE ARE LINES OF THIRD COUNTRIES WHICH COVER THE SAME ROUTES.

3. COMMENT: THERE WERE NO EDITORIALS IN LIMA PRESS MORNING OF MAY 29 ON THIS SUBJECT. PRIME MINISTER EMPHASIZED THAT THERE IS A BASIS FOR COMPROMISE AND TENDED TO PLAY DOWN THE POTENTIAL CONFRONTATIONAL ASPECTS OF THE DISPUTE. HOWEVER, MENESES, RUNNING TRUE TO FORM, SHRILLY DEFENDED PERU'S SOVEREIGNTY AND ACCUSED THE U.S. OF STIRRING UP DIFFICULTIES WHERE NONE SHOULD EXIST. HOWEVER, FOR THE MOMENT AT LEAST, IT APPEARS THAT GOP HAS DECIDED TO PLAY BRANIFF-AEROPERU DISPUTE IN RELATIVELY LOW KEY PENDING THE START OF NEOGTIATIONS. DEAN

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